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Tiverton
Rural District Council

REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the Year ending
31st December, 1953

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE
AUTHORITY

(a) *Part-time Medical Officer of Health :*

G. NICHOLSON, M.D., F.R.C.S., D.P.H.

(b) *Building Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector :*

W. P. ROBERTS, M.S.I.A., C.R.SAN.I.

(c) *Sanitary Inspector :*

A. L. SANDERS, M.S.I.A., A.R.S.I.

(d) *Water Engineer :*

D. G. EVANS, M.S.I.A., A.R.S.I.

(e) *Meat Inspector :*

R. J. HARGREAVES,

M.S.I.A., A.R.S.I., M.INST.M.



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TO THE
TIVERTON
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to lay before you my Annual Report on the health of the District for the year ending 31st December, 1953.

**Section A.—STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF
THE AREA.**

Area: 114,139 Acres.

Population, estimated: 20,650 (R.G.'s Mid-1953
Estimate).

Rateable Value: £82,233 at 1st April, 1953.

Sum Represented by a Penny Rate: £352.

Social Conditions. Agriculture being the chief occupation of the inhabitants, conditions are, on the whole, good.

Slaughtering Industries. Government Slaughterhouse at Tiverton Junction, and C. & T. Harris (Calne) Ltd., also at Tiverton Junction.

Other Main Industries:

Wiggins, Teape & Co. (1919) Ltd., Devon Valley Paper Mills, Hele;
 Reed & Smith, Paper Manufacturers, Silverton Mills, Hele;
 Culm Leather Dressing Co., Longbridge, Cullompton;
 Fox Bros., Weavers, 37, Higher Street, Cullompton;
 Dreven & Brown, Glove Manufacturers, Longbridge, Cullompton;
 Sellwood Bros., Tanneries, Exeter Hill, Cullompton;
 Reed & Smith, Paper Manufacturers, Higher King's Mill, Cullompton;
 John Heathcoat & Co., Net Mending, Victoria Hall, Cullompton;
 Fox Bros., Weavers, Uffculme;
 Wilts United Dairies Ltd., Milk Factory, Hemyock;
 Dulverton Saw Mills, Exebridge;
 Bramber Engineering Works, Willand;
 Duchess of Devonshire Dairy Co. Ltd., Willand.

EXTRACT FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

		Total.	M.	F.	
Live Births	{ Legitimate { Illegitimate	306 12	167 9	139 3	{ Birth Rate per 1000 { the population—15·1
Still Births	{ Legitimate { Illegitimate	7 1	5 1	2 —	{ Rate per 1000 total { births—15·2
Corrected Birth Rate	..	..	..	..	16·4 per 1000
Deaths	.. ..	229	121	108	{ Crude Death Rate per { 1000 of the estimated { resident population— 11·0
Corrected Death Rate	..	..	..	..	9·2
Deaths of Infants under one year of age	..	M.—6	F.—4		
Deaths from diseases & accidents of pregnancy and child-birth	{ from sepsis { from other causes	..	Nil	Nil	

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age:

All infants per 1,000 live births	..	..	..	31·4
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live			births	29·3
Illegitimate infants deaths under one	..	..		1
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	..	..	..	Nil
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages)	..	..	..	Nil
„ „ Diarrhœa (under 2 years of age)	..	..	..	Nil
„ „ Cancer	..	..	..	39

Statistics for England and Wales.

Births per 1,000 of population	..	..	{ Live	15·5
			{ Still	0·35
Deaths „ „ „ „	..	..	..	11·4
Deaths under one year of age per 1,000 live births				26·8

Excessive Mortality during the Year.

Deaths from Cancer in 1949 were 40, in 1950 there were 43 and in 1951 there were 32. In 1952 there were 35 deaths from Cancer and in 1953, 39 deaths:—

	Males.	Females.	
Stomach	8	3	
Bronchus and Lung	4	—	
Breast	—	4	
Uterus	—	1	
Others	12	7	
	24	15	= Total of 39.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

1. **Nursing in the Home.** No change.
2. **Number of Midwives** practising in the Area. The District Nurses, of which there are 16, act in this capacity.
3. **Laboratory Facilities.** Clinical material is examined at the County Laboratories as before, also at the Pathological Department of the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital.

4. **Legislation in Force.** There has been no major change during the past year with regard to Legislation in Force throughout the Area.
5. **The Tiverton Hospital for Infectious Diseases.** The Tiverton Hospital for Infectious Diseases is now used by the Hospital Board for recovery cases from Tiverton District Hospital and from the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital. Cases requiring isolation now go to Whipton Isolation Hospital, Exeter.
6. **General Surgical and Medical Cases.** These are admitted to Tiverton and District Hospital or the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital. The Devon and Exeter Hospital has a considerable waiting list and consequently accommodation cannot be considered adequate.
7. **Maternity Cases.** The majority are admitted to the Tiverton and District Hospital, admission being controlled by the County Medical Officer. Applications are usually in excess of accommodation.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the year 1952, giving age incidence.

Age Periods	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Whooping Cough	Measles	Pneumonia	Erysipelas	Paratyphoid	Dysentery (Sonné)	Cerebro Spinal Meningitis	Puerperal Pyrexia	Acute Poliomyelitis	Acute Encephalitis	Ophthalmia Neonatorum
0— 1	—	—	3	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
1— 3	—	—	9	44	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
3— 5	1	—	11	57	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
5—10	5	—	16	151	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10—15	2	—	1	21	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—25	1	—	2	6	—	1	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
25—30	—	1	—	3	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
30—35	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
35—45	—	—	—	—	4	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
45—55	—	—	—	—	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55- over	—	—	—	—	10	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Age Unknown	1	—	—	4	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Total	10	1	42	290	41	3	—	1	—	3	3	—	1

Tuberculosis. New Cases and Mortality during 1953.

Age Periods	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Pulmonary		Non- Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non- Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20	4	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
25	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
35	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
45	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 up	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
Age Unknown	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	9	6	1	—	1	—	—	—

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925.

No action was taken during the year.

Public Health Act, 1925, Section 62.

No action was taken during the year.

Section B—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supplies.

Public supplies have been maintained at a satisfactory standard of quality throughout the year. Samples have been taken regularly for bacteriological examination. At times it is still extremely difficult to make an adequate supply available to Silverton and Thorverton and negotiations are still proceeding over the provision of a new source at Stapley, which will augment the Regional Scheme to the extent of about another 250,000 gallons per day.

Small improvement works have been carried out to improve supplies generally, and in particular a 3-inch main has been extended from Ashill to link up with the 1½-inch main from Croyle. This work has greatly improved the supply to a large area of agricultural land and five farms.

A piped water supply has been made available to the village of Hockworthy and Staple Cross. This scheme also supplies the village of Clayhanger in the area of the North Devon Water Board. The water supplied on this scheme is collected from springs near Chimney Down and is pumped to a service reservoir on Chimney Down at a top water level of 857 feet above ordnance datum. Chlorination is carried out as a precautionary measure.

During the year, the following premises have been connected to main supplies :

Domestic Premises	161	
Trade Premises (including Farms)	52	(metered supplies)
	<hr/>	
Total No. of New Consumers during year	213	
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The following is a statement of the consumers on the Water Schemes throughout the District :

Parish	Estimated Population	Approx. Population Supplied from Mains	No. of Dwelling Houses Connected	No. of Dwelling Houses Supplied by Stand pipes
Bradninch	1767	1400	449	—
Burlescombe	699	348	116	—
Butterleigh	96	—	—	—
Clayhidon	461	—	—	—
Cullompton	3377	2500	833	—
Culmstock	716	440	148	—
Halberton	1281	750	251	—
Hemyock	1068	505	169	—
Hockworthy	179	30	9	—
Holcombe Rogus	489	220	70	—
Huntsham	149	—	—	—
Kentisbeare	670	365	121	3
(including Blackborough)				
Sampford Peverell	669	490	163	—
Silverton	1274	975	324	18
Thorverton	701	575	183	—
Uffculme	1688	1190	386	—
Uplowman	303	110	34	—
Willand	808	710	235	—
	<hr/>			
	16,395	10,608	3,491	21
	<hr/>			

Parish	Estimated Population	Approx. Population Supplied from Mains	No. of Dwelling Houses Connected	No. of Dwelling Houses Supplied by Standpipes
Bampton (including Shillingford)	1614	1015	342	25
Bickleigh	211	—	—	—
Cadbury	143	—	—	—
Cadeleigh	165	—	—	—
Clayhanger	165	50	16	—
Cruws Morchard	432	25	8	—
Loxbeare	148	—	—	—
Morebath (including Exbridge)	364	105	35	3
Oakford	359	60	19	4
Stoodleigh	260	—	—	—
Templeton	135	—	—	—
Washfield	323	75	20	—
	4,319	1,330	440	32
Total for District	20,714	11,938	3,931	53

Sewerage.

Parish.	Details.
Bampton.	The new sewage works at Bampton has given a satisfactory effluent during the year. Occasionally during heavy rainfall a large amount of surface water finds its way into the old sewers and eventually causes difficulty at the sewage works.
Bickleigh.	The village is sewered by means of a sewer and septic tank, which discharges its effluent into a small stream running into the River Exe.
Bradninch.	There are two outfalls, at Hele Road and Pottersfield, near the Manor House. Treatment is by settling tanks and broad irrigation. It will be necessary for the Council to consider the provision of filter beds at Bradninch in order to improve the condition of the

Parish.

Details.

- effluent. A complaint was received during the year from the Duchy of Cornwall regarding the unsatisfactory state of the effluent at the Pottersfield outfall. Steps have been taken to see that a more satisfactory effluent is produced.
- Burlescombe. The existing sewers discharge into septic tanks and the effluent runs into irrigation channels. Septic tanks are being provided to serve the new housing estate.
- Butterleigh. No sewerage scheme. Mainly pail closets. Now that water is being supplied to Butterleigh it will be necessary for the Council to consider the provision of a small sewerage scheme for this area.
- Cadbury. Conservancy.
- Cadeleigh. Partly sewerred. Disposal by septic tank and filter bed.
- Clayhanger. No sewerage scheme. Mainly pail closets.
- Clayhidon. No sewerage system. Drainage is disposed of by septic tanks where water closets have been installed.
- Cruwys Morchard. Conservancy. Mainly pail closets. A small sewage disposal plant has been installed during the year to serve the four houses built by this Council and four built by the Crediton R.D.C.
- Cullompton. Disposal is by means of settlement tanks and percolating filters. A full-time man is employed to maintain this system. Continuing trouble is being experienced with the Tannery effluent at the sewage works. The lower sewer which runs alongside the Mill

Parish.	Details.
	Leat is defective and requires renewing. There is no sewer serving the lower part of Station Road, Stoneyford and East Culm. The Council is still awaiting a report from the Consulting Engineers who have carried out a comprehensive survey.
Culmstock.	The Council's Consulting Engineers have prepared a scheme to include the hamlet of Hillmoor, where conditions are very bad.
Halberton.	Work is being commenced on the Halberton scheme early in 1954 and should be completed before the end of the year.
Hemyock.	There is a sewerage scheme with an unsatisfactory outfall. A proper disposal plant is required in order to prevent pollution of the River Culm.
Hockworthy.	There is a small scheme serving the hamlet of Staple Cross, otherwise the parish is served by septic tanks and pail closets.
Holcombe Rogus.	The village septic tanks continue to be emptied at regular intervals by a cesspool emptier.
Huntsham.	Conservancy. Mainly pail closets.
Kentisbeare.	There is a very primitive sewerage system with no proper disposal works. A sewerage scheme is required. A scheme to serve 24 Council houses and three private houses is working satisfactorily.
Loxbeare.	Conservancy. Pails and septic tanks.

Parish	Details.
Morebath.	A small scheme has been installed at Morebath and full treatment of the sewage is carried out. The plant is working satisfactorily.
Oakford.	Sewerage scheme with septic tank and filter.
Sampford Peverell.	The Sampford Peverell sewerage scheme has been approved by the Ministry and the starting date for the scheme has been provisionally fixed for the 1st May, 1954.
Silverton.	Public sewer with a satisfactory disposal works. The new storm over-flow ditch and the two new sludge beds are working satisfactorily.
Stoodleigh.	Conservancy. Mainly pails.
Templeton.	Conservancy. Mainly pails.
Thorverton.	Public sewerage scheme with a disposal works.
Uffculme.	A scheme to serve the whole of the built-up area, including the new school, has received provisional approval by the Ministry, who state that they will probably be able to award a starting date either in 1954 or 1955.
Uplowman.	Conservancy. Mainly pails and septic tanks.
Washfield.	A small scheme has been installed to serve the village. However, a considerable amount of storm water is getting into the old village sewer. Steps may have to be taken to have this diverted.
Willand.	The new sewerage scheme for Willand is still awaiting Ministry approval and a starting date. Numerous complaints have been received from the

Parish Council during the year and a new length of sewer has been laid between the Cattle Market and the Railway Hotel, in order to obviate a nuisance outside Parkfield Terrace.

In addition to the above, treatment plants have been provided for isolated Council estates and, in accordance with Ministry instructions, the settling tanks are emptied at regular intervals by contractors. Arrangements have also been made for the filter beds to be attended to regularly, part-time local labour being employed for this purpose.

Shops Acts.

It was not necessary to take any action during the year under review in connection with the provisions of the Acts relating to Ventilation, Temperature and Sanitary Conveniences.

Smoke Abatement.

No complaints have been received during the year under review.

Swimming Baths.

During the year several visits were made to the Swimming Baths at Waterloo Cross, Uffculme. The water is filtered and chlorinated at regular intervals and samples taken proved to be satisfactory.

Scavenging and Refuse Disposal.

The Council is now operating two refuse lorries and refuse is collected from every one of the 30 parishes in the district. During the year the service has been extended to serve additional hamlets and small groups of houses.

In order to give a regular refuse collection to the new Council housing estates, it has been necessary for the Council to obtain a larger capacity refuse vehicle. A Karrier side loading refuse vehicle of 16 cu. yds. has therefore been purchased and will be put into operation on January 1st, 1954.

A weekly collection of refuse is in operation in the larger villages and built-up areas in the district and fortnightly collections in the small out-lying villages and

hamlets. Arrangements have also been made for the collection of refuse from farms and isolated groups of houses, provided that the refuse can be brought to a central point on a road which can be negotiated by the refuse lorries.

During the year a total of 23,050 miles was covered by the two vehicles in the course of collecting refuse in this rural area and approximately 12,542 cu. yards of refuse were collected and disposed of. Refuse disposal is by controlled tipping at Gaddon Down, Uffculme.

In order to avoid the double journey to Bampton when refuse is collected in that area, arrangements have been made for the first load to be tipped at the Knacker's Yard, Bampton.

Salvage.

The collection of salvage paper during the year 1953 realised the sum of £86 17s. 6d. This is much less than for the previous year as the mill has only been able to take a very limited quantity of paper and there has also been a considerable reduction in the price.

Salvage paper was collected during the normal refuse collections and there was no additional expense either in labour or transport. The Council have decided to discontinue the collection of salvage paper as from the 1st January, 1954.

Summary of Inspections of the Area by Sanitary Inspectors.

Inspections of Dairies (other than Dairy Farms)	..	21
Milk Samples taken from Dairies (other than Dairy Farms)	.. .. .	Nil
Bakehouse Inspections	.. .. .	24
Inspections of Shops and Food Stores	.. .. .	39
Inspections of Butchers' and other Shops	.. .. .	28
Knacker's Yard Inspections	.. .. .	27
Rodent Control Inspections	.. .. .	70
Building Bye-law and Town and Country Planning Inspections	.. .. .	815
Petroleum Storage Inspections	.. .. .	34
Caravan Inspections	.. .. .	27
Fried Fish Shop Inspections	.. .. .	10

Inspections of Public Conveniences	..	..	58
Inspections in connection with Private Water Supplies			37
Drainage Inspections	..	..	209
Inspections of Cafes and Restaurants	..	..	26
Cattle Market Inspections	..	..	6
Infectious Diseases Inspections	..	..	30
Inspections in connection with Ice Cream		..	7
Refuse Tip Inspections	..	..	40
Refuse Complaints Investigated	..	..	37
Sewage Works Inspections	..	..	124
Smoke Abatement Inspections	..	..	1
Nuisances and Complaints Investigated	..	..	222
Disinfections—Infectious Diseases 14, Verminous 7	..		21
Inspections of Schools	..	..	4

Water Sampling (Private Supplies and Wells).

Water Samples Taken :—

Parish.	Unsatisfactory.	Satisfactory.	Total Taken
Bampton ..	—	1	1
Bickleigh ..	—	1	1
Burlescombe ..	—	1	1
Cruwys Morchard	1	—	1
Clayhanger ..	3	—	3
Cullompton ..	2	1	3
Oakford ..	1	1	2
Stoodleigh ..	1	—	1
Washfield ..	2	1	3
TOTALS :	10	6	16

No. of Wells closed	..	..	..	3
No. of Wells or Storage Tanks cleaned out or otherwise treated	..	..	..	3

Caravan, Moveable Dwelling and Camping Sites.

(Section 269, Public Health Act, 1936).

Number of sites licensed during 1953	..	..	10
Total No. of Sites licensed at end of 1953		..	32

Section C—FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

1. Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

(Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

PREMISES (1)	Number of		
	Inspections (2)	Written Notices (3)	Occupiers Prosecuted (4)
Factories (Including Factory Laundries)	16	Nil	Nil
Workshops (Including Workshop Laundries)	31	Nil	Nil
Workplaces . . . (Other than Outworkers' Premises)	8	Nil	Nil
Total	55	Nil	Nil

2. Defects found in Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

Want of cleanliness—4. Remedied—4.

Sanitary Conveniences:

(a) Insufficient—4. Remedied—4.

(b) Unsuitable or defective—2. Remedied—2.

Inadequate ventilation—Nil. Remedied—Nil.

3. Outworkers (Section 110).

The number of outworkers employed on homework by industrial firms during the six months preceding August, 1953, was 32; 31 being engaged in the making, etc., of wearing apparel and one engaged on lace and net mending.

4. Means of Escape in Case of Fire (Section 34).

Two certificates of adequate means of escape in case of fire were granted during the year under review.

5. Register of Factories.

At the end of the year under review there were 143 registered Factories, Workshops and Workplaces in the district.

**Section D—TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT, 1947,
AND BUILDING BYELAWS.**

	Deposited	Approved	Rejected
Plans and applications in respect of Buildings and other develop- ment	221	216	5
Plans and applications under Control of Advertisement Regs.	5	4	1
TOTALS ..	226	220	6

Section 16, Town & Country Planning Act, 1947—Appeals.

There were no appeals during the year against a decision given by the Council (acting for and on behalf of the local planning authority), under the Town & Country Planning Act, 1947.

**Section 28, Town & Country Planning Act, 1947—
Tree Preservation Order.**

No orders made during 1953.

**Sections 23 and 24, Town & Country Planning Act, 1947—
Enforcement of Planning Control.**

No action has been needed under these sections during the year 1953.

Section E—PROGRESS OF COUNCIL HOUSING SCHEMES.

(a) Number of Council Houses erected and completed during 1953 :

Traditional	26	
Non-Traditional ..	40	
	—	Total 66

(b) Number of Council Houses under construction at 31st Dec., 1953 :

Traditional	25	
Non-Traditional ..	44	
	—	Total 69

(c) Total number of Council Houses erected to date (period 1945—1953):

Traditional	276	
Non-Traditional	118	
		— Total 394

(d) (i) Sites for Traditional Houses approved for construction but not started at 31st Dec., 1953:

Burlescombe ..	2	houses
Ashill	4	„
Huntsham ..	2	„
Cadbury	2	„
Bradninch ..	8	„
Culmstock ..	8	„
		—
Total ..	26	„
		—

(ii) Sites for Non-Traditional Houses approved for construction but not started on Dec. 31st, 1953:

Kentisbeare	8	houses
Halberton	20	„
Uffculme	12	„
Cullompton	6	„
		—
Total ..	46	„
		—

Section F—HOUSING.

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year:

- (a) (i) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health and Housing Acts) 69
- (ii) Number of inspections made for the purpose 80
- (b) (i) Number of dwellinghouses (included under sub-heading (a) above), which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 Nil
- (ii) Number of inspections made for the purpose Nil
- (c) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation .. 7

(d) Number of dwelling-houses exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading and found to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	26
--	----

2. Remedy of Defects during the year without service of Formal Notices:

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority	26
---	----

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year:

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(i) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	2
---	---

(ii) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :

(a) By owners	2
-----------------------	---

(b) By local authority in default of owners	Nil
---	-----

(h) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :

(i) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	8
--	---

(ii) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :

(a) By owners	4
-----------------------	---

(b) By local authority in default of owners	1
---	---

(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(i) Number of houses in respect of which undertakings were accepted	7
---	---

(ii) Number of houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	Nil
--	-----

(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936	Nil
---	-----

Rural Housing Survey.

No action was taken in regard to this Survey during the year under review.

Section G—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD AND FOOD PREMISES.

1. Food and Drugs Acts, 1938—Sections 13 and 14.

(a) Ice-Cream Premises—

(i)	Number of premises registered for the manufacture and/or sale of ice-cream during the year	8
(ii)	Total number of premises registered for the manufacture and/or sale of ice-cream at the end of 1953	58

Of the total number of premises registered, five were registered for the manufacture and sale of ice-cream and the remaining 53 were registered for the storage and sale of pre-packed ice-cream only.

(b) Bakeries—

No new bakeries were registered under the Act during the year.

(c) Fried Fish Premises—

Registration of one fried fish premises under the Act was carried out during the year.

(d) Egg-Packing Premises—

There are six egg-packing stations registered. These premises have been kept in a satisfactory condition throughout the year under review.

2. Food and Drugs Act, 1938, Section 57—Slaughterhouses.

Eight annual licenses were granted in respect of slaughterhouses during the year and one knacker's yard licence was granted.

3. Meat Inspection.

Two slaughterhouses have again been in use during the year, i.e., the Government Slaughterhouse and Messrs. C. & T. Harris (Calne) Ltd.

The work of Ante- and Post-Mortem inspection has received detailed attention. Slightly over 40,000 animals were admitted to the slaughterhouses during the year, an increase of 3,000 on the previous year. There were 1,660 casualty animals which were admitted on account of disease or injury and, of these, 328 whole carcasses were totally rejected.

The total weight of meat and offal rejected was 71 tons, 3 cwts., 1 qr., 25 lbs.

The number of pigs slaughtered has again increased—an additional 6,000 having been admitted over the number dealt with last year. This increase in the number of pigs slaughtered has been progressive throughout the last few years, the number dealt with having increased from 5,791 in 1950, to 24,264 in 1953—an increase of some 19,000.

Pregnancy Toxæmia has once again been in evidence in in-lamb ewes and there have been seven cases of localised *Cysticercus Bovis*.

The arrival of dead animals at the slaughterhouses have been dealt with as suspect-Anthrax carcasses and therefore contact has been made with the Police and the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

The rejection of a very large number of bovine and sheep livers has again been due to Cirrhosis—mainly parasitic.

The standard of hygiene and cleanliness at both slaughterhouses has been generally satisfactory, with vigilant supervision.

Use has been made of the Public Health Laboratory Service at Exeter for the microscopic examination of specimens, etc.

Relationship and liaison with the Ministry of Food, the Wholesale Meat Supply Association, the Slaughtering Contractors and the farming community have remained excellent.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle (including 929 Cows)	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	2801	2928	10075	24264
Number inspected	2801	2928	10075	24264
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT T.B.—				
Whole carcasses condemned ..	58	93	145	76
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	1329	25	884	874
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis ..	49·5%	4%	10%	3·9%
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY —				
Whole carcasses condemned ..	42	3	—	65
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	447	—	—	2491
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with T.B. ..	17·1%	0·13%	—	10·6%

The total number of animals inspected during the year was 40,068.

4. Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933.

No action has been taken during the year under the Act. The Electro-leather is used for the stunning of sheep and pigs and the Cash Captive Bolt for bullocks and calves.

During the year eight licenses to slaughter animals were renewed, each for a period of three years. Three initial licenses were granted for periods of three years.

5. Adulteration.

No action was taken under the Food and Drugs Act as this work is performed by the County Council.

6. Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Food.

The County Medical Department and Public Health Laboratories continue to carry out this work.

7. Food Bye-Laws and Clean Food Campaigns.

Careful supervision and inspection of restaurants, cafes and food preparation premises has continued during the year under review.

Copies of the Council's Food Bye-Laws were distributed to all restaurants, food shops and premises in the district.

No formal action under the Food Bye-Laws has been necessary during the year.

No samples of Ice Cream have been taken during the year since most of the Ice Cream sold in the area is pre-packed and supplied by large firms from outside the area.

(a) Number of food premises—14 Bakehouses, 34 Butchers' Shops, 75 Restaurants, etc., 7 Fried Fish Shops—a total of 130.

(b) Number of food premises registered under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act—11 Bakers, 22 Butchers, 5 Fried Fish Shops—a total of 38.

Number of Dairies registered under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949—8.

(c) 39 inspections were made of food stores and these were kept in a satisfactory state of cleanliness generally. In four cases the attention of the occupiers was called to minor items of method of storage, but these received attention without formal notice being served.

A complaint was received during the year with reference to a Butter factory. The management, after informal notice, gave attention to the provision of coats and caps for the employees, repaired the floor and provided separate hot and cold water to the hand washing basins.

(d) No new educational activity has been carried out during the year.

(e) The method of disposal of tinned foods is by burning and unsound meat by digester process at the slaughterhouse at Tiverton Junction.

(f) No action taken under this heading.

8. Milk Supplies—Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949.

Inspection of dairies (other than dairy farms), continued during the year and several improvements were effected.

During the year under review :

Two annual Dealer's Licenses authorising the use of the Special Designation "T.T." ;

One annual Dealer's Licence authorising the use of the Special Designation "Accredited" ; and

Two annual Dealer's Licenses authorising the use of the Special Designation "Pasteurised,"

were granted.

Seven annual Dealer's Licenses authorising the use of the Special Designation "T.T." ;

Three annual Supplementary Dealer's Licenses authorising the use of the Special Designation "Pasteurised" ;

and

Two annual Supplementary Dealer's Licenses authorising the use of the Special Designation "T.T.,"

were renewed during the year.

Although the responsibility for the supervision of cowshippens is not now that of local authorities, it is worthy of note that substantial progress continued during the year in the improvement of existing, and construction of new, cowshippens. All plans relating to cowshippens deposited with the Council under the building bye-laws continued to be referred to the County Milk Production Officer for observations and recommendations from a milk production standpoint, thereby ensuring that the buildings ultimately conform to the standard required by the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949.

THE RAG FLOCK & OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951.

There were no premises to which the Act applies functioning in the district during 1953 and no action was, therefore, necessary under the Act.

RODENT CONTROL.

The Council's Rodent Control Scheme has continued to work well during the year under review. Treatments numbered 170 and 604 inspections were made.

Table of Properties dealt with during the year:

	Local Author- ity	Dwell- ing Houses	Agri- culture	Business
Inspections carried out as a result of—(a) notification	—	12	62	13
(b) otherwise	9	26	378	38
Number of premises found to be infested—(a) Major ..	2	3	120	11
(b) Minor ..	6	15	57	25
Number of infested premis- es which were treated ..	8	18	81	36
Number of notices served under Section 4—				
(a) Treatment ..	—	—	—	—
(b) Structural works	—	—	—	—

(The foregoing table does not include subsequent inspections and treatments at each property which may have been made during the year, but merely quotes the number of properties involved in the year's work).

One “block” control scheme was carried out during the year.

PETROLEUM REGULATIONS.

Number of storage licenses renewed for 1953	..	156
Number of new licenses granted during 1953	..	4
Total number of storage premises licensed at the end of 1953	.. .. ..	160

THE STORES FOR EXPLOSIVES ORDER, 1951, AND THE MAGAZINES FOR EXPLOSIVES ORDER, 1951.

Nine stores (all at local quarrying premises), were licensed by the Council during the year under the new Regulations.

All the Sanitary Inspectors hold the Sanitary Inspector's Certificate and, in addition, the Meat and Food Inspector's Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute.

The duties of the officers are :—

MR. W. P. ROBERTS—Building Bye-Laws and Planning, Petroleum Regulations, Factory and Workshops, Stores, Shops, Cafes, Bakehouses, Caravans and Explosive Stores.

MR. A. L. SANDERS—Housing Inspection, Council House Pointing System, Nuisances and Complaints, Refuse Collection and Rodent Control, Sewers and Sewage Disposal, Public Conveniences, Infectious Diseases.

MR. D. G. EVANS—Supervision of Regional Water Scheme of the Council.

MR. R. G. HARGREAVES—Meat Inspection at the Abattoirs at Tiverton Junction—Messrs. Lloyd Maunder and Messrs. C. & T. Harris (Calne) Ltd., Bacon Factory (Slaughtering only).

The Committee concerned with matters of Public Health is the General Purposes Committee, which is held monthly.

I am indebted to the Officers of the Council for their help during the year.

I have the honour to be, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your most obedient Servant,

G NICHOLSON,

Medical Officer of Health.

